National Permits of buses to Harijans

618. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of National Permits of buses given to the Harijans during the period from 1986 to 30th September, 1988; and

(b) what are the details of Harijans who have received National Permit for buses during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) National Permits for buses are granted by the State Transport Authorities. The number of such permits for buses were last specified in 1977 for allotment by State Transport Authorities as 50 per State and UT of Delhi and 25 for other Union Territories. There has been no increase in the number since then. There is no provision of reservation for SC/ST for permits under section 63(7) of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939. According to the reports so far received from 22 State Governments/UT Admns. no permit has been granted to any person belonging to Harijan community during 1986-88 In the new Motor Vehicles Act 1988, which is to come into force soon, the restrictions on the number of permits to be granted stand removed, and every applicant would get permit subject to a ceiling of personal holding of 10/20 for individual/company.

Shifting of Western Railway H.Q. from Bombay

619. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to shift the Western Railway Headquarters from Bombay to Gujarat or Rajasthan;

(b) what are the reasons to continue the Headquarters of Western Railways at Bombay when there is no Western Railway in Maharashtra;

(c) whether any estimate of the expenditure which would be incurred if the Headquarters of Western Railway is shifted to Gujarat or Rajasthan has been worked out; and

(d) if so, what is the likely expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Some requests to this effect have been received.

(b) The location of the Headquarters of a Zonal Railway is decided on operational and administrative considerations and not on the basis of territorial jurisdiction. Based on these, the Headquarters of Western Railway is located at Bombay and it is not proposed to disturb this arrangement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Lack of funds to provide facilities at Ahmedabad Airports

620. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to providing of international airport facilities at Ahmedabad airport has been delayed because of lack of funds with the National Airports Authority (NAA);

(b) what steps Government have taken to provide necessary funds to NAA to enable them to provide international airport facilities at Ahmedabad;

(c) what are the reasons for not entrusting the work to International Airports Authority of India;

(d) by when the work would start and when it would be completed; and

(e) by when international air traffic would start direct from Ahmedabad Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.